POISON IVY™

39

13+ TEEN

ALL IN

Amuse-Bouche

WILSON
TAKARA
PRIANTO

DC K.O.

ENTERS

ALL FIGHT MONTH!

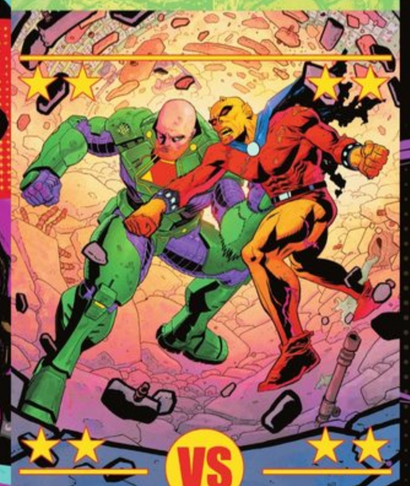
THE TOURNAMENT TO BE CROWNED

KING OMEGA

EXPLODES WITH THE BIGGEST BATTLES YET!

ALL IN

DC K.O. #2
variant cover by DAN MORA



ROUND 1
DC K.O.: SUPERMAN VS. CAPTAIN ATOM #1
WRITTEN BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ART BY SEAN IZAAKSE
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

ROUND 2
AQUAMAN #12 (AQUAMAN VS. HAWKMAN!)
WRITTEN BY JEREMY ADAMS
ART AND COVER BY JOHN TIMMS

ROUND 3
DC K.O.: WONDER WOMAN VS. LOBO #1
WRITTEN BY JOËLLE JONES
ART BY JASON HOWARD AND CARY NORD
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

ROUND 4
TITANS #30 (CYBORG VS. SWAMP THING!)
WRITTEN BY JOHN LAYMAN
ART AND COVER BY PETE WOODS

ROUND 5
DC K.O.: HARLEY QUINN VS. ZATANNA #1
WRITTEN BY LEAH WILLIAMS
ART BY MIRKA ANDOLFO
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

ROUND 6
THE FLASH #28 (JAY GARRICK VS. GUY GARDNER!)
WRITTEN BY MARK WAID AND CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL
ART BY VASCO GEORGIEV
COVER BY DAN MORA

ROUND 7
SUPERMAN #33 (LEX LUTHOR VS. THE DEMON!)
WRITTEN BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ART AND COVER BY HAYDEN SHERMAN

ROUND 8
DC K.O.: RED HOOD VS. JOKER #1
WRITTEN BY SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ART BY DUSTIN NGUYEN AND GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

We like to think nature is **balance.**

And it **is,** in a sideways fashion. But that balance is not a **peaceful** one.

It's a **war.**

A constant struggle between opposing forces.

Attack and retreat. Push and pull. Truces. Stalemates.

Nobody ever **wins.**

That's what we call **balance.**

Because in nature, there is no victory without **sacrifice.**

You don't **get** anything without **giving up** something of equal value.

To eat, you must **kill.** A plant or an animal.

And then in turn, you yourself will die, and feed the **earth.**

Eat or be **eaten.**

This is the first and **only** lesson.

It's not **all** dark. I'm not trying to be a **doomer.**

Nature doesn't create a **problem** without leaving the ingredients for a **solution** somewhere nearby.

Take **venom,** for example. Or **disease.**

To make antivenin or a **vaccine,** you need the components of the poison **itself.**

You cut into the thing that **hurt** you in order to make yourself well again.

-Snff-

That is **natural balance.**

It's balance...

...on the edge...

...of a **knife.**

CLINK
CLANK
SHHHHHHH
WACK
THUD
THUD
THUD
TH
SCHLLL
WHAM

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NOTHING! Nothing.

I'M... making you dinner.

BUT IT'S MORNING TIME.

IS IT?

So... BREAKFAST. I'M MAKING YOU BREAKFAST.

SMELLS GOOD.

Whew

Eat your vegetables, parents always say.

They make you healthy and strong.

But if they make you healthy and strong--

--why do they fill so many people with **disgust?**

I'll tell you why.

It's because they contain **just** the tiniest bit of **phytotoxin.**

Plants produce these chemicals to deter insects and other predators.

That's their modest little **weapon** in the great war.

But we **do** need to eat our vegetables. That's the **funny** part.

Because along with the **phytotoxins**, they have the nutrients we need to **survive.**

The poison...

LEAN ON ME. IT'S OKAY.

I'M TOO *HEAVY.*

YOU'RE NOT HEAVY AT *ALL.*

...and its **cure.**

Hnngh--

THERE YOU GO.

THIS ALL LOOKS *AMAZING,* BUT...

...I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF AN *APPETITE.*

TRY. FOR *MY* SAKE.

YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR *STRENGTH* UP.

Like I said.

Eat.

Or be **eaten.**

SKCHH

THMP

TZ²K TK

TUK

MNCH MNCH

NCH

Wow. THAT'S *DELICIOUS.* I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD *COOK* LIKE THIS.

IS THAT *EARTHY* FLAVOR... STAR ANISE OR SOME-THING?

...

YEAH. *STAR ANISE.*

Absolutely.

I can't **really** cook, of course.

CRNCH

But the **air** we've been breathing has been loaded with oxytocin-inducing plant **pheromones** for the last half hour.

So **every-thing** tastes **delicious.**

Now it's a matter of waiting to see how the **balance of nature** unfolds.

KROOAAK!

Will we be overcome by the **poison...**

ARE YOU OKAY? You look a little **green.**

...or the **cure?**

I've been every part of the **sludge** of life, from seed to flower to human to **corpse.**

THIS IS ***NICE.*** NICE TO BE ALONE. JUST THE TWO OF US. SHARING A NICE ***MEAL.***

Nice.

YEAH. IT ***IS*** NICE.

I've eaten leaf and flesh.

I've **photo-synthesized.**

I've felt my **stomata** open and close as I drew water from my **roots.**

But I've never butchered and eaten a **demigod.**

HERE. TRY SOME OF THIS ***JELLY.***

WHAT'S IT ***MADE*** OUT OF?

IT'S... IT'S ***BONE BROTH.***

I'VE HEARD BONE BROTH IS A ***SUPER-FOOD.***

...YOU KNOW WHAT?

IN THIS CASE, IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ***TRUE.***

FUNNY.

I DON'T FEEL SO *BAD* ANYMORE.

I FEEL...

...I feel...

...LIFE ITSELF...

Like... I CAN TASTE THE *AIR*...

...SO MANY TINY LIVES *BREATHING*... IN THE SOIL... ON OUR *SKIN*...

IS THIS WHAT *YOU* FEEL ALL THE TIME?

YES.

HOW DO YOU *STAND* IT?

I *DON'T.* I'M ON THE VERGE OF LOSING MY *MIND* EVERY SINGLE DAY.

THAT'S WHY I TRY SO HARD TO *CONTROL* THE THINGS I *CAN.*

IF *I* HAD THIS POWER... I WOULDN'T HURT *ANYTHING* EVER AGAIN.

I'D WATCH WHERE I *WALKED* SO I WOULDN'T STEP ON A *BUG* OR A BLADE OF *GRASS.*

AND I'D JUST... STAND AROUND LOOKING AT *FLOWERS* ALL THE TIME.

I WOULDN'T GO AROUND *MURDERING* PEOPLE IN HORRIBLE WAYS.

OR... OR *HURTING* PEOPLE I CALL MY *FRIENDS.*

I guess you start to take it for **granted** *after a while. This* **power.**

You only remember the **pain.**

... I'm sorry.

I'm sorry for ***everything.***

You forget how **beautiful** *it is.*

... Janet?

KLANK

KLINK

BE SORRY MORE.

SLAM

DON'T *STOP*, OKAY? DON'T STOP UNTIL-- *UNTIL--*

I WON'T STOP UNTIL YOU *TELL* ME TO STOP.

In the end, we are only ***flesh.***

RIP

Muscle. Blood. Bone.

Sap. Roots.

Breath. Vapor.

That's all we are, plant or **animal.**

Just **flesh** reaching for the **sun.**

And for those rare moments when **time** stands still.

MEANWHILE IN SEATTLE.

But time **doesn't** stand still, of course.

Everywhere **else,** it marches forward as **usual.**

Creeping step by step toward the end of the **world.**

MR. UNDINE!

Hmm?

THEY'RE COMING!

WHO IS?

SEATTLE-- THE POLICE, THE ***AUTHORITIES,*** I DON'T KNOW-- THEY'RE COMING HERE TO ***SWEEP*** THE CAMP--

...SO ***NOWHERE*** IS SAFE.

NOT EVEN THESE LITTLE CORNERS OF WOODLAND AND MARSH.

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?

I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW--

GUESS, YOU USELESS WEED.

HALF AN HOUR-- *less--* ***MINUTES--***

WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?
MY ORDERS?
Well, WITHOUT IVY HERE, YOU'RE SECOND IN COMMAND-- AREN'T YOU?
... am I?
WHETHER YOU ARE OR YOU AREN'T, THIS ALL WORKS A LOT BETTER WHEN THERE'S SOMEONE IN CHARGE.
... right.
WELL THEN.
WE COULD MAKE OUR WAY NORTH. FLEE ACROSS THE BORDER INTO CANADA.
BUT NO. WITH SO MANY PEOPLE AND THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, WE'D GET CAUGHT INSIDE A DAY.
WE MAKE FOR THE WOODS. AND PRAY THAT THEY WILL PROTECT US FROM OUR ENEMIES.
TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN CARRY.
WE WILL NOT RETURN TO THIS PLACE.

COME ON, LITTLE ACOLYTES. KEEP UP.

IT'D... BE *EASIER...* IF YOU *SLOWED DOWN...*

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE OR NOT?

ARE WE REALLY GOING TO STAY *HERE?* WITH THE-- THE *CREEPY TREES* THAT WATCH EVERYTHING AND SPIT YOU OUT IN RANDOM PLACES?

DO YOU HAVE A *BETTER* IDEA, SPROUT?

NO, AND IT'S *FREAKING ME OUT!* WHY WON'T THEY JUST LEAVE US *ALONE?!*

Because *Ivy* refuses to settle her *debts.*

WE *MUST* MAKE PEACE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN *GOTHAM.* WE CAN'T FIGHT A WAR ON *TWO* FRONTS...

...AND THERE IS ONLY *ONE* PERSON WHO COULD POSSIBLY MAKE *IVY* SEE *REASON.*

WAIT HERE. I HAVE TO GO *GET* SOME-ONE.

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO *FIND* US AGAIN OUT HERE?

IF YOU'RE *LUCKY.* IF *I'M* LUCKY, WE WILL *NEVER* CROSS PATHS AGAIN.

MARSHVIEW.
NOT LONG AFTER.

Peace comes in little moments, if it comes at all.

Tiny pockets of **rest** between the battles of **life.**

?!

They can lull you into a false sense of **security.**

This is normal now. This will continue.

But that's not what peace is **for.**

...WHAT TIME IS IT?

WHO **CARES.**

THE REAL QUESTION IS, WHAT'S THIS... **STUFF** GROWING ON MY HANDS?

It's there to **prepare** you for what comes **next.**

...IT'S *GHOST PIPE.*

IS IT-- A *PLANT?* OR SOME KIND OF *MUSH-ROOM?*

YES.

IT'S A *PARASITIC* PLANT THAT CAN ONLY GROW IN THE PRESENCE OF SPECIFIC *FUNGI.*

YOUR *BODY* HAS REACHED SOME KIND OF... BOTANICAL *HOMEOSTASIS.*

HOMEO-*WHAT?*

STASIS. YOUR *MICRO-BIOME* ISN'T *FIGHTING* ITSELF ANYMORE.

Well, I *FEEL* BETTER. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN BY ALL THAT *LATIN* STUFF.

YOU *LOOK* BETTER.

NOTHING *LASTS,* I GUESS. NOT EVEN *DEATH.*

WHAT *DID* WE EAT, ANY-WAY?

I MEAN... WHEN YOU *THINK* ABOUT IT...

...IT WAS BASICALLY JUST A BIG *SALAD.*

MUST HAVE BEEN ONE *HECK* OF A SALAD.

HEY, PAMMY.

I HEAR YA GOT YOURSELF INTO EVEN *MORE* *TROUBLE.*

HARLEY!

Where did--how--

--are you--

I'M *GREAT,* SUGARPLUM.

BUT NOT AS GREAT AS *YOU,* APPARENTLY.

I WASN'T *EXPECTING* YOU.

YEAH, I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M *HERE.*

THINGS GOT A LITTLE... *COMPLICATED.*

THEY ALWAYS *ARE.*

Listen, PAMMY. I'M NOT HERE TO *YELL* AT YOU FOR YA LITTLE *PICNIC.* I'M HERE TO TALK *BUSINESS.*

YA GOTTA COME BACK TO GOTHAM, BABE.

BEFORE THERE AIN'T NO PLACE FOR YOU TO COME BACK TO AT ALL.

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE.

Writer
G. WILLOW WILSON
Artist
MARCIO TAKARA
Colors
ARIF PRIANTO
Letters
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
JESSICA FONG *Cover*

Variant covers
NOOBOVICH
KYUYONG EOM
CHAY RUBY
JOSHUA "SWAY" SWABY

JESSICA BERBEY *Associate editor*
Editor ARIANNA TURTURRO
Group editor ROB LEVIN

NEXT: SAVAGE NEGOTIATIONS

DC ALL IN

DECEMBER

ABSOLUTE BATMAN #15

Writer **SCOTT SNYDER** reunites with legendary artist **JOCK** for an epic tale in the Absolute Universe.

Cover art by **NICK DRAGOTTA and FRANK MARTIN**

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC K.O.

DC K.O. CONTINUES IN DECEMBER WITH THE HARD-HITTING ALL FIGHT MONTH!

DECEMBER:

- ■ *DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT #2*
- ■ *DC K.O.: SUPERMAN VS. CAPTAIN ATOM*
- ■ *AQUAMAN #12*
- ■ *DC K.O.: WONDER WOMAN VS. LOBO*
- ■ *TITANS #30*
- ■ *DC K.O.: HARLEY QUINN VS. ZATANNA*
- ■ *THE FLASH #28*
- ■ *SUPERMAN #33*
- ■ *DC K.O.: RED HOOD VS. JOKER*
- ■ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #14*

JANUARY:

- ■ *DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT #3*
- ■ *DC K.O. #3*
- ■ *TITANS #31*
- ■ *DC K.O.: GREEN LANTERN GALACTIC SLAM*
- ■ *SUPERMAN #34*
- ■ *THE FLASH #29*
- ■ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #15*
- ■ *DC K.O.: THE KIDS ARE ALL FIGHT SPECIAL*

FEBRUARY:

- ■ *DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT #4*
- ■ *DC K.O. #4*
- ■ *TITANS #32*
- ■ *SUPERMAN #35*
- ■ *THE FLASH #30*
- ■ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #16*

MARCH:

- ■ *DC K.O. #5*

ALL IN

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS VP – Editor-in-Chief JIM LEE President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer ANNE DePIES Senior VP & General Manager LARRY BERRY VP – Brand Design & Creative Services LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy DAN KNEIPP VP – Strategic Initiatives & Business Affairs JAY KOGAN Senior VP – Legal NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing, Operations & Collected Editions MARK SHERMAN VP – Digital Growth Strategy & Monetization NANCY SPEARS VP – Sales & Marketing CARRIE WILLIAMS Executive Director – Publicity & Communications

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